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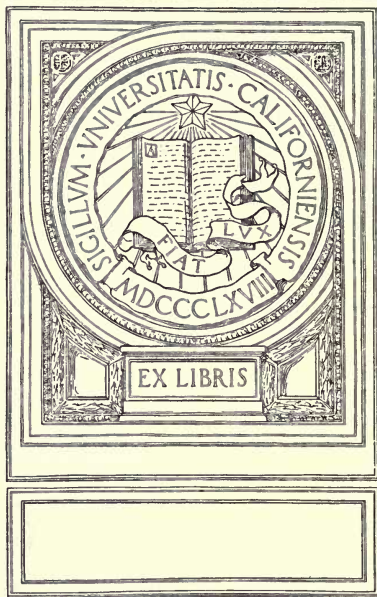
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T O

William Pitt, Esq;

C O N C E R N I N G

The Fifteen New REGIMENTS lately
Voted by PARLIAMENT: Wherein some
of the general Arguments, together with his
in particular, for Opposing the Motion to
Address His M A J E S T Y, are fairly
answered, and the Case itself is shortly and
plainly stated.

Nil actum reputans, si quid superesset agendum.
LUCAN.

*Fame is a Thing long earning, and soon gone,
By many Actions gain'd, and lost by one.*

L O N D O N :

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LETTER

TO

WILLIAM PITT, Esq.

CONCERNING

The Fifteen New REGIMENTS lately
Voted by PARLIAMENT: Wherein some
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in particular, for Opposing the Motion to
Address His MAJESTY, are fully
answered, and the Case itself is shortly and
plainly stated.

By JOHN WILKINS, Esq. and FRANCIS WILKINS, Esq.
LONDON.

Printed in a large long running, and few years
By many who are gain'd, and left by one.

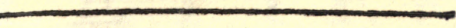
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T H E

BOOKSELLER *to the* READER.

THis Pamphlet, as I have already advertised the Publick, was preparing for the Press, at the Time the Rebels marched into *England* ; upon which Event, the Author thought proper to postpone the Publication of it.

APR 26 1938



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A
L E T T E R

T O

William Pitt, Esq;

S I R,



H E Approaches of a concealed Enemy are to be guarded against, but those of a concealed Friend are to be encouraged. This Truth is founded on a Kind of paradoxical Reason ; which is, that a Person, so disguised, will tell you Things most

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undisguisedly. It is one of the few Instances in which a Mask is both useful and honest. The Party admonished seldom has his Mind duly tempered for Reproof, when it comes from any other Quarter: Being apt to think his Enemy has not seen Cause for what he says; and to tell a *confronted* Friend, that he ought to have over-looked it. Nevertheless, I will make known as much of my Condition, as may be consistent with the utter Ignorance I hope to keep you in with regard to my Person. I can affirm, with the utmost Truth, that I am not entering into this Altercation with you from a Love of Dispute; having followed, in my own Country, the Advice given to *Milton*, when he was travelling into a foreign one; "To think much, and speak little." I have long *lived*, and now cou'd wish to *dye* unknown; yet with such a Consciousness about me,

as

as I flatter myself accompanies but few Human Minds. I cannot charge myself with having ever suffered my Love or Dislike of any Man, to make either a Flatterer or a Slanderer of me. I praise warmly, but not lavishly ; I censure coolly, but not insensibly. And all Men would do well to observe this Rule ; lest their Applause should become invidious, or their Reflections grow unjust : In which Cases, we neither benefit the Good, nor hurt the Evil-doer. To give you some little Estimation of my Talents, I will venture to pronounce of myself (as was said not long ago by one great Man of another) that, though I am below a Genius, I am above the Vulgar. I am honoured with a Seat in Parliament as well as you : I am a Man of Probity as well as you. And as my Senatorial Capacity will help but little to bring your Conjectures into

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any Compass ; so I think your Imagination can receive no great Aid or Guidance, from my acknowledging, that I am one of the foremost of your Admirers ; because they also are too numerous for so particular a Direction of it. I took early Notice of you, as one, who, in Mr. *Pope's* Phrase, felt for Fame ; which made me, upon all Occasions, *feel* for you. I honoured you, in short, as a virtuous Man, and revered you as an able one.

To obviate any Imputation, or Suspicion of Vanity, in what I have said, I beg Leave to observe, that there is no Breach of Modesty in claiming, what one's Pride is no ways gratified in receiving ; and that mine cannot be gratified in my present Situation is plain ; because, if you shou'd be disposed to grant, whatever I could ask, it would be given,
in

in effect, but to a Phantom. I thought this short Preface to my Epistle necessary, in order to give it some Title to your Perusal, though it may have more to your Consideration. And I will further court and bribe your Attention, with a Promise to be short, serious, and sincere.

Having, I hope, convinced you how dispassionately I look on *you*, it behoves me to satisfy you of the same unprejudiced Disposition in me towards the noble Lords, who are Parties in the Cause now under our Consideration; and I solemnly protest to you, that I love some, honour most of them, and have not the least Grudge or Malevolence to any of them. Certain Persons, indeed, intimated, in Abatement of the Merit of the honourable Gentlemen's Zeal who raised these Regiments, that they were very *tempting* Things, as lucrative Gifts:
But

But as no Proof can be brought of the Efficiency of that Temptation, Charity bids us believe that there was no such Influence. This, and every thing else that savoured of Reflection, shou'd have been avoided.---- You see, Sir, I am as ready to acknowledge the Invalidity of a Friend's Argument, as to shew the Insufficiency of my Adversary's. But if they err'd in one Way, give me Leave to say, Sir, you trespassed in another : For to talk of these great Names, as Things respectable, was right ; but to talk of them, as you did, in an House of Commons, as Things of *Weight*, was wrong.

With this Singleness of Heart, free alike from Guile or Gall, I will enter upon the Matter ; and shall examine your Behaviour on the Occasion, with all the Tenderness due to your Modesty, with all the Defe-
 rence,

rence due to your Abilities. I per-
 haps am of Opinion that you are not
 changed ; others are not of that
 Opinion. Your Conduct has been
 loudly arraigned, and bitterly in-
 veighed against. 'Tis urged, that
 though the Spirit of Party is sub-
 sided among us, the Spirit of Patriotism
 should remain. That notwithstand-
 ing our Confidence in the Ministers
 is extremely well founded, we are
 not to introduce a Kind of political
 Popery, by supposing *them* to be
 infallible, or that our *Faith* is to
 be implicit. That a Parliamentary
 Watch and Ward is to be kept up,
ne quid detrimenti capiat Respublica ;
 and, as few Men are so well qualified
 as yourself for the Discharge of this
 important Duty, that you ought to
 take Part of it upon you. These,
 and the like Observations, past be-
 tween me and another Friend of
 yours, during the less interesting
 Parts

Parts of the Debate. I shall proceed now more directly to my Purpose.

When the Estimate of the Charge of these Fifteen Regiments, to be raised by the noble Lords whose Names accompanied it, was laid before the Committee of Supplies, in order to have their Resolutions upon it; I believe some few Gentlemen were irreconcilably averse to the whole Project. Possibly there might be as many more, who wished to see it as totally take Effect. But the more Moderate, who, to my great Astonishment, were also the more numerous, foreseeing that Inconvenience would attend either Extreme, look'd for Truth in the middleWay. They thought it would be ill advised entirely to disappoint the Zeal of these noble Peers, or to forego the Benefit of it; and yet were not for purchasing

fign that Benefit too dearly, by in-
 curreng Dangers and Evils to which
 it was not adequate. The Committee
 feemed to be of Opinion, that the
 Fervour of his Majesty's Gratitude
 had trespassed a little on his Reason,
 upon the first Overture of the gene-
 rous Propofals made him by thefe
 worthy Champions for their Country,
 and made him overlook the Incon-
 veniences arifing from too implicit a
 Compliance with them. They faw the
 Difficulty in which he had involved
 himfelf and us, and could devife no
 other Expedient to extricate both,
 than by befeeching him, in an hum-
 ble Address, to moderate and qualify
 the extraordinary Concefions made
 to thefe great and honourable Perfons,
 by revoking the Article of Rank.
 The Reafonablenefs of the Motion
 was fcarce questioned : The Impro-
 priety of it was only fpoke to, on
 account of the Royal Word, which

we were told in a very emphatic Manner, was pledged, and was not to be violated. This is a short State of the Case in the Committee ; where, from the particular Knowledge I had of the Complexion of the House that Day, I am certain the Equity of the Proposition had made its Way, had not the Opponents of it taken Advantage of the Misconduct of its Advocates ; who appearing to have no kind of Concert amongst them, lost themselves, and their Cause, by proposing and advancing Things, not only without any Regard to Parliamentary Order, but without Method or Discretion. You may remember, Sir, that the Ministry gave up a less material Point, and such a one as they might with some Colour have insisted on ; which was, the Reduction of the Term agreed upon, from six Months to four. But, to say Truth, there was a Freedom of vot-
ing

ing on this Occasion, which I had not often observed in Parliament ; it was so totally void of Respect either to Person or Party. And I confess I was not only pleased with it as a Thing highly becoming the Dignity of an Assembly, of which I had the Honour to be a Member, but as a Friend to the Administration ; who, I am persuaded, will find in the End, that it will be so far from impeding them in the Discharge of public Business, that it will greatly tend to facilitate it. Should this Practice be properly encouraged, so as to become as fashionable as it is reputable, they would have no Enemies of whom they need to be afraid, nor Friends of whom they ought to be ashamed. Probably, it was the extraordinary Schism among the Ministerial Clan on this great Occasion, which made your Apostacy thought so very unseasonable, and so invidiously commented upon. At a

Time, when those who were most strictly connected with, and dependent on the governing People were forced to abandon them: In a Cause which had not only loosed the Bands of Friendship and of Kindred, but even the Ties of Interest: At such a Time, and in such a Cause, I say, for an old Opponent to become an Advocate for them, you will easily believe was Matter of infinite Speculation. For my own Part, as I am not apt to give into malicious Animadversions on the Behaviour of others; whenever I have been present at any Mootings on this Step of yours, I have only confess'd, that I thought it extremely difficult of Solution. But the Recollection of a Thing you said in Behalf of these Noblemen, may, I think, a little explain it. The standing in a *Gap*, at a critical Juncture, is undoubtedly a great Enhancement of the Merit of so good an Office. Now,
if

if this was your Motive, it appears at once that you was governed in your Conduct by Scriptural Rule, and the Fundamental of Christian Principles; inasmuch as you can say for yourself, *that you have added to your Faith in them, Hope, and to your Hope, Charity.*—But I shall leave the Committee, to take a View of what pass'd in the House upon the Report; where the Treatment, and the *Fate*, this poor Question met with, in the second Disquisition it underwent, surprized me beyond Expression. 'Tis true, I had been told the Day before, by two Gentleman, differently interested in the Success of it, *that I might depend upon it, Rank would carry it*; an Assurance which I thought equally indecent and imprudent. But certain Persons in this Country are amazingly well versed in Arithmancy; *which, being interpreted, is* the

the Art of foretelling Events by
Numbers.

The Debate then being resumed, what was objected to as improper and unfitting only in the Committee, was by a notable Discovery, found in the House to be impracticable. A Gentleman of the Law, who is a great Honour and Ornament to his Profession, told us in the Language of the Law, *factum valet*, the Thing was irrevocably done ; that Rank was an essential and necessary Appendant of the Commission ; that they were indissolubly blended and united ; and our Proposition was treated as no less extravagant, than if we had attempted to separate Fire and Heat, the Sun and its Light. — I have already called this a *notable* Discovery ; as indeed it must be, to bring the Controversy to so short an Issue, when three hundred of the most considerable

able

able Men in this Country had been deliberating upon the Subject-Matter of it for seven Hours, and had overlooked an Argument, *in Appearance*, so obvious and conclusive.

The opening this new Battery against us, which had been *masked* the Day before, was thought by some a little unfair: But Precipitancy, Oversight, or forced Compliances in Business, will reduce Men to Shifts, who, in other Circumstances, wou'd despise and abhor any thing like Chicane or Subterfuge. However we shall find, Sir, upon examining, decisively as this *Plea* was urged and uttered, that it deserved but little Attention. Was any thing, or could any thing be determinately done in this Matter, without the Advice and Consent of Parliament? If not, his Majesty's Promise was no ways binding. The Assent of Par-
liament

liament being a Condition annexed by Implication to his Covenant ; till it was so ratified, the Commissions given to these noble Colonels were but so much waste Paper ; liable to be cancelled ; and upon such an Application to the Crown as was proposed, others of a different Tenor might have been made out. This being the Case, the Expediency of our Interposition between his Majesty and the Contractors for this their great Bounty to the Public, was allowed on all Hands ; as we seemed to be the only Confessors on Earth, impowered to give him the Absolution that was requisite in so disagreeable a Dilemma. Should you, or any other Person say, that these Lords would not have accepted of their Commissions with such Limitation, I am convinced they would not think themselves beholden to you for the Assertion. This, Sir, would be a
virtual

virtual Confession that there were mixed Motives in the Undertaking, as their Ill-willers have surmized ; which would be a considerable Draw-back on the Merit of that heroic Virtue and public Spirit, which chiefly, if not singly, induced both King and Parliament to listen to their Proposals. Had this Circumstance been duly considered, we were not to be talked to, as secretly approving, but as publicly consenting only, upon prudential Motives, to this Measure ; meaning nothing more, than to keep Pace with his Majesty in our joint Acknowledgments of the Zeal and Patriotism of his Nobles, and to testify the same Sollicitude in ourselves, for the Safety and Security of his Person and Government.

All I have hitherto said was with a Design to shew, how there came to be such a Disposition among us,

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to countenance a Scheme not altogether reconcileable to our Reason or Conscience ; in order to reflect some Reproach upon the Authors and Abettors of it ; who, instead of requiting our Complaisance with a Concession, to which we had a double Claim, took Advantage of our Candour, and made it necessary to our Defeat.—Let us pursue this Point a little farther, and suppose the *Decree* of the honourable and learned Gentleman I lately quoted, to be as definitive as he seemed to think it. I say, in Answer to it, that the Parliament should then have been apprized *directly* of the Stumbling-block ; who, finding themselves so circumscribed in their Power of judging and deciding in this great Affair, would have taken no Cognizance of it at all, but have returned the Proposition to the Ministers ; requiring them to new frame
and

and modify it, 'ere they could consider it as a proper Subject for their Deliberation. Had this been done, (which ought to have been done) we had imposed on them the Task we had unwarily taken upon ourselves ; and I doubt not but they would have effected with the utmost *Ease*, the Compromise we found attended with the utmost *Difficulty*. This appears to me to be a very fair Decision of the Matter. But in order to bring it nearer to an Issue, let us, for a while, look singly and stedfastly to the Point, abstracted from every external Circumstance and Concomitant of it ; and suppose it to come thus naked before the House of Commons for their Sanction and Determination. The Minister is ordered to acquaint us, that his Majesty had received very generous Proposals, (but not from whom) for the raising of fifteen Regiments *gratis*, for the De-

fence of the Nation, during its present calamitous Circumstances ; and desires to know, whether we will advise him to accept them. I will venture to affirm, that the Question, thus shortly put, would have received as short an Answer, and been determined in the Negative. This was worth mentioning, because I derive a Proof from it, by Inference, that it was wholly owing to the Respect and Deference paid to the great Names upon our Table, that we conferred at all upon the pernicious Project. I beg Pardon for giving it so harsh an Epithet ; but to Men of Foresight, I assure you, Sir, the Consequences of this Vote of Parliament are fearful Objects. As I have made it my Business to inform myself thoroughly of Gentlemen's private Thoughts of this Thing, (which are not always correspondent to

to their Actions) I hope I am excusable for talking so confidently of it.

All that now remains unperformed of my Engagement is, to answer your Objections to the Address; which I shall do as briefly as may be, the Merits of the Question being fairly and fully set forth, if I conceive aright, in the stating of it. And as you and your honoured and learned Friend seemed intirely to agree in your Sentiments upon this Occasion, I beg Leave to take all Advantage of the strict Union betwixt you, by considering you in my Replications as an *Unity*. You are not to expect much Method, nor is it very material to our Purpose; therefore I shall give you *your* Answers to our Arguments, and *my* Replies to your Answers, in the Order they happen to occur to me, upon a Recollection of the whole. But I must premise in entering

tering upon this Topick, that whatever I may say to the Disadvantage of the Regiments, it shou'd give no Sort of Umbrage to the Commanders. 'Tis no uncommon Error, nor a very reproachable one, to have misjudg'd or overlooked the evil Consequences of a good Intention. I am convinced that some of these Lords (very likely all of them) engaged in this meritorious Work upon as laudable and virtuous Motives; as ever actuated Man upon any Occasion. A glorious Opportunity offered itself of joining the Patriot to the Courtier, and they most worthily embraced it. Their Public Spirit and Affection for their Prince went Hand in Hand in the Undertaking. And I wish with all my Heart, that our Ministers, in whose Power it is to do it, would improve the present Disposition among us, towards multiplying the Proofs and Instances of the Compatability

tability of those Characters. Nevertheless, I fear this fatal Measure, in the End, will come under the Description *Adam* gives of *Eve*, when he calls her, a *specious Mischief, an accomplished Snare*. If these great Men should find, that, in consequence of their threatened Chastisement of the Disaffection, which has appear'd as yet but in the extreme Parts of the Kingdom, they have laid the Foundation of such Uneasiness and Discontent, as may bring the Disease into the Bowels of it; that instead of destroying and extirpating the Enemies of our Peace and Happiness, they have increased them: If this should be our Case, their Repentance and Acknowledgment of the Mistake would come too late. — I shall make no Apology for this short Digression, because I have taken into it the very Essence of the Controversy.

Rank,

Rank, as I have already observed, being the great Point in Dispute, the Sticklers for the Address very justly urged, that they thought the allowing of it might breed ill Blood in the Army: for though, in reasoning upon our Apprehensions of Things, we can give no Demonstration, the Object being eventual; yet where that Event, once befallen you, may be past Remedy, common Prudence calls upon us to provide against the Contingency. But how was this answered? Why, you told us, that you was sorry to hear such Opinions and Doctrines broached in Parliament, as that the Fear of giving any little Dissatisfaction without Doors, was to check or controul us in our Deliberations! — This, Sir, had been a very good Answer, had it been any Answer at all; but as no such Doctrine was either advanced, or even implied, it must be

be rejected as insufficient. We were not senseless or abject enough to *suppose*, much less to assert, that the great Council of the Nation was to be awed or influenced in its Resolutions by the most considerable Body of Men among us; which I hope the Army will never be; though God only knows. They remonstrated against the Wrong going to be done (as they thought) to many brave Veteran Servants of the Public, upon noble, generous Motives; upon those of Equity and Compassion; which made them feel the Discontent they did not *fear*, or if they feared, that Apprehension had but the second Place in their Minds. 'Twas further said, on your Part, that by such Suggestions we were encouraging the old Officers to complain, and might make those think themselves aggrieved, who were not so. As if Human Passions slept in the Breasts

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of Men till they were awakened by their Neighbours ; and that we did not begin to feel, till By-Standers told us we were assaulted. Preposterous as this Reasoning is, I will suppose it true, and give a further Answer to it, *viz.* That if there were some few Officers in the Army weak enough to be so influenced and practised upon, Numbers would not be found ; and if Numbers should think themselves aggrieved, they that have answered for the Acquiescence and Resignation of the *few*, have said just nothing at all. And I very well remember, that as on the one Hand we were admonished for the Imprudence of avowing our Fears, we were told, on the other, that there was no room for Fear ; the Loyalty and Zeal of the Gentlemen in the Army was such, that they were above any little Resentments of this Sort. Be it so. Is there then no social Sympathy left
in

in the World? No Regard to be had to the Sorrows and Sufferings of our Fellow-Subjects? If there be, these gallant Persons are doubly entitled to our Consideration; for to be *patient, long-suffering, and of so great Goodness*, are more than human Virtues, they are the Attributes of the Deity. But notwithstanding these Assertions, I do averr, who have but a small Acquaintance among the Soldiery, that I know some, who are already repining and murmuring at the Injustice. Yet the most extraordinary Position of all in this Arbitration of yours is still behind: Namely, that these Gentlemen had no Right to complain; *because*, Injuries of this Kind are so frequent in the Army, that we have Instances of them almost every Day. This, in short, is to compare the Guilt of a private Murder or two with that of a Massacre.

But can you really conceive, that there is such Insensibility about the Heart of any Man as you would have us suppose? You yourself was once injured, pray how did you feel? I know, and have, perhaps, a livelier Sense of your Resentment, than you could impart, with all your Rhetoric, to any other Creature upon Earth. Should I have recourse to *Historical* Testimonies, I am certain I could shew, that less considerable Causes have produced the Effects we apprehend. In *Sweden*, for Instance, not many Years ago, an entire Army was very near revolting, on account of a little Unfavouriness in their Bread, and with a Prince at the Head of it as well beloved as *our Billy* *.

Great

* This is a familiar Appellation given by the Guards to the Duke; and I'm of Opinion, that
 he

Great Variety of Matter might be taken into this *Dispute*; but I have endeavoured all along to keep it in such a State of Simplicity, as always makes Truth more easy of Perception. The supporting of a wrong Thing by *Example*, and the pleading Want of *Precedent*, in order to reject a right one, afford great Scope for Raillery; but as I am apt to look upon such Occurrences, as the peculiar Infelicities of this Country, the Subject becomes again too serious, and I conform to it accordingly. I might trouble you in another Instance, with a Recapitulation of the Arguments used by a sensible and worthy Friend of mine, by taking
 Notice,

he will be as well pleased with it, if rightly understood, as I am; who think it bespeaks more of that Spirit and Affection, which I hope he will ever find in all his Followers, than if they had attempted to deify him by any pompous Titles or Expressions.

Notice, that as the Prerogative had been in some Sort waved, by giving a Power to the noble Lords to appoint their own Officers, and all Military Law and Discipline suspended, by allowing them to covenant for local Service only; we had Reason to hope, that they in their Turn, might be induced, by such a Remonstrance as was proposed, to make a Cession of Part of *their* Right. This, I say, and much more, might have been foisted in, but I chose rather to keep to my own Method of treating this *arduous Question*. Yet since I have mentioned it again, pray give me Leave to ask you, what Insinuation, what *Stigma* it carried with it? Were these honourable Gentlemen stigmatized by the Parliament's interposing, upon a Motive of *Justice*, between his Majesty and them? I rather think the Person who can believe that our Request would not have

have been complied with, and readily complied with, casts the greatest Reflection upon them. --- Having accidentally reminded myself of that Article in their Agreement, by which it is stipulated, that these Regiments are not to go Abroad ; I cannot help observing, that if they should be established (which the whole Nation is hourly deprecating) it is a great Aggravation of the Injury already done the old ones ; because, if we should have Occasion to send Troops into *Flanders*, or to reinforce those in our Colonies, or to relieve the Garrisons of *Gibraltar* and *Port-Mahone*, these are to go again upon the most hazardous Enterprizes, when it is notoriously the Duty of the younger Corps. Add to this, that the same Interest and Influence, by which the noble Lords have obtained these Bounties and Indulgences for themselves, will be perpetually exerting
itself

itself in Favour of such Subalterns, to the further Mortification and Dishonour of their Elders, whose Heads they will be put over ; not to mention that their Commanders, being at once their Patrons and their Chiefs, may extend that Interest and Influence in the Country beyond its proper Bounds. Moreover, repeated Wrongs of this Sort, will make these noble Colonels to be look'd upon with such invidious Eyes in the Army, that when they come to be employed, those who are to co-operate with them, will be doing all they can to render their best Services ineffectual. There are such recent, such fatal Instances of this deplorable Weakness in Men, that I appeal to the Experience of Boys, whether I am not describing Nature ; *Depraved indeed !* (as a great modern Author observes) *but Human.*

Fearing

Fearing that you may be as tired as I am by the Length of this Expostulation, I will cheer you with an Assurance, that I am bringing it to a Conclusion. Probably I shou'd leave off here, but that I pique myself upon a punctilious Exactness in all my Dealings, and find that my Title-Page has promised, somewhat more than I have performed : For which Reason, I must beg Leave to trouble you with one Interrogatory more, by asking what you cou'd mean by attributing such abundant Merit to these great Persons, *for standing in the Gap*, as you called it ? Their Merit was but upon an Equality with all the rest of the People ; who testified in their several Ways, that they were ready to sacrifice all that was dear to them, in the Defence of their Religion, Liberties, and the present happy Establishment. But how, Sir, *did*

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they

they stand in the Gap? I suppose you meant their *Names* (which, if equal to any fifteen Battalions of the King's Troops, as you affirmed, I will confess are much better Things than the Regiments) for, at the Time we were canvassing this Matter, there were such Gaps in the Regiments themselves, as the whole Force of the Enemy might have past thorough without giving or receiving any Annoyance.—Were it not a little foreign to my Argument, the sole Tendency of which has been, to prove why we ought to have been indulged in our Address; this Circumstance had naturally led me, to observe upon the Inexpediency and Fruitlessness of the whole Project: Since, for half the Time at least of their *supposed* Duration, they could not be compleat, or form'd enough to do any essential Service; and when they
were

were compleat and form'd enough, it was to be hoped the Reasons for which they were raised, would be no longer subsisting. I have been told, besides, that new Troops, under the Direction of *experienced* Officers, make but raw Work of it ; but raw Troops, led by raw Officers, I fear, would not make very *raw* Work.

In fine, I wish for the Sake of the noble Lords, that our Motion had been complied with ; which would have stopt at once the Mouths of Envy and Detraction. As many of them, then, as might be inclined hereafter to resume the Military Calling, would have brought Claims to his Majesty, strongly enforced by the Merit of their past disinterested Services. For I own, Sir, that they may be the *propereſt* Per-

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sons

sons to give Regiments *to*, but they are the worst Persons to get Regiments *from*. This Consideration, chiefly, has made the Measure look'd upon with such invidious Eyes ; and it is certain, that none cou'd be more conducive to the enlarging, and establishing of a Standing Force in this Country. I have so high an Opinion of many of these honourable Gentlemen, as well as of some of our Ministers, to be confident, that the finding this Thing to be *unpopular*, will be sufficient to make them wish it *undone*.

Thus, Sir, have I gone through the very disinterested and unprofitable Task I had set myself ; which Considerations may help to evince the Uprightness of my Intention in it. But a Writer who takes Care to be sincere and inoffensive in what
he

he utters, has nothing to apprehend ; his Conscience absolving him of every Thing to be *suspected*, and his Decency acquitting him of whatever may be *disrelish'd* by his Reader. My Reason for addressing myself to *you* upon this Occasion, was rather to tell you what others *said*, than what I thought of you ; and to remind you, that the *sibi constans* and *propositi tenax* were the greatest and most venerable Characteristics belonging to Man. Not that *I* have, or that Anybody else can fairly offer, the Shadow of an Objection to your embarking with this or that Sett of Men ; for Virtue knows no Party : She is an Enemy to Parties, because Parties are Enemies to *her* ; and if the Degeneracy of the Age we live in shou'd reduce her to the Necessity of forming one for herself, I fear the Corps wou'd be, like other *independent Companies*, equally feeble,

feeble, equally incomplete. I am not conscious that I have in any Instance departed, either from the dispassionate Temper I set out with, or from the Character I assumed of being your Friend. It was the Part of a Friend, to tell you that your Reputation was declining, that your Fame was languishing, in order to quicken you in your Endeavours to recruit and cherish them. If you have been *flirting* only with Fame and Virtue, in order to be thought *well* with them, instead of pursuing them from a Conviction of their true Value, and for the Sake of the Pleasures arising from the Consciousness of really *possessing* them ; you have profaned the Shrine of one, and have shut the Ears of the other, to all your future Sollicitations. But 'tis not so : You *must* have been in earnest ; for to be sincere is the dis-

distinguishing Quality of a great Mind. Other Virtues are occasionally exerted only, according as the Occurrences of the Day call for the Manifestation of them ; but Sincerity is a constant, permanent one ; must be the Partner of all others ; and is indeed the Foundation of Moral Excellence. In this Perswasion and Confidence, I will dismiss you with a Compliment made to me (very undeservedly) at the University, by the Governor of the College I was of, upon reading the first Exercise I ever put into his Hands.

*Perge ut incepisti, et decus sis,
non Ædis nostræ tantum, sed totius
Academiæ. Ingenio præditus es om-
nibus rebus pari, omnia expecta-
bimus.*

F I N I S.

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bimus.

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